

7 Sep 1967

## Record of Heber Town Square Buildings Filed

The public square in Heber City, like those of other early Mormon towns, combined civil, religious, and recreational functions as the center of the community and of Wasatch Co.

The measured drawings that are shown on this page are typical of those prepared by the Historic American Buildings Survey conducted this summer in Utah in collaboration with the Utah Heritage Foundation. The purpose of this survey has been to record the significant historic and architectural structures of this state.

THESE DRAWINGS, WITH the associated photographs and data books will become part of the collection of the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.

Twenty-three of the one hundred and three drawings prepared this summer are of the Heber Town Square buildings.

The Heber Town Square was particularly selected for this survey because of its unique historical and architectural significance in America.

Mr. Paul Goeldner, the Project Supervisor of the Historic American Buildings Survey, Utah Project, 1967, made the following statement on the Heber Town Square as these drawings were completed.

"WHEN, AFTER A LONG and arduous journey, Brigham Young said, 'This is the place,' he was concerned about the uniqueness of his opportunity to create a better environment rather than a duplicate of what he left behind.

"Without narrowly limiting national borders, Americans have always been free to move. Sometimes they have been challenged by new frontiers but in

other cases they have sought escape from their own folly which exhausted the soil, polluted the water, poisoned the air and corroded their human relationships.

"A DIFFICULTY IN OUR own time is that the farther and faster we move, the more every place becomes like every other place and our restless searching leads to increasing disappointment.

"The wanderer finds a promise of something better in the Heber Valley and the tourist is tempted to linger, not only because of the impressive natural setting but because of the beauty and character of the late nineteenth century architecture; the red brick houses of Midway with their lacy white bargeboards and the unique integrity of the Heber City town square.

"UNLIKE THEIR predecessors of 1924 who were anxious to preserve the architectural character of the town square when they built the annex at the rear of the courthouse, present leadership has proposed a new courthouse of a design and placement which would drastically change this character and, unfortunately, make Heber City more monotonously like every other small American town, in which travelers see no reason to slow down or open their wallets.

"It has been suggested that those who want to preserve the square are meddling outsiders. Perhaps they are. Perhaps it is foolish to expect Wasatch County to value its heritage more than hundreds of other communities who now lament the loss of something which made them unique and could have kept them proud. While the trees and buildings remain, there is still hope that the Heber Valley can show itself better and wiser than other places, not only in saving but in using its square.

"BECAUSE THIS CONCERN for America's heritage is more

than local, the national government has taken steps to prevent federal funds being used for projects involving the destruction of historic sites. In the future this will affect projects like the new Wasatch County Courthouse, which involves a federal grant.

"This legislation extends the principle of stewardship which has previously been applied to the soil, water, forests, scenic areas and wilderness to include the historic values which are also the birthright of future generations."

THE PERSONS CONDUCTING this survey were interested to learn that the buildings of the Town Square owned by the City of Heber, including the Tabernacle and Social Hall, are operated, maintained and repaired without any cost to the City. This is accomplished through the volunteer effort of individuals and civic organizations and is coordinated and supported by the Wasatch Historical Society. Except for Social Hall rest

room facilities which were renovated by the City to be made available for park visitors, the renovation work on the buildings is being provided for by fund-raising programs and contributions. This will include re-roofing of the north side of the Tabernacle, to be accomplished this fall. A separate program will provide for conversion to gas of the Social Hall heating system also this fall.

RESEARCHERS FOR THE Historic American Buildings Survey are anxious to have additional information about Heber City's town square before the end of the project in mid-September.

A number of questions were listed in the August 10 issue of the Wasatch Wavce. Among the most important are: What was the construction date of the jail? What was the stair location in the courthouse before the 1924 annex was built? What unusual or significant events have taken place in connection with the square or individual

buildings.

Assistance from Heber Valley resident would be very helpful and is requested. Answers may be delivered to the Wasatch Wave or mailed to H.A.B.S., 603 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102.

## National News

We are pleased to report that the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle and Heber Amusement Hall have been listed on the National Register. This recognition is justly deserved. Credit and thanks should be extended to those alert citizens whose concern has preserved this portion of our heritage. While some people lament that the buildings want care and restoration, it should be noted that the structures still stand, and plans for their effective use are progressing. Tomorrow and for years to come they can continue their cultural contribution.

Ironically, another even more outstanding tabernacle currently faces an imminent death threat—the Summit Stake Tabernacle. Highly recommended by the Utah Heritage Foundation, the

Daughters of Utah Pioneers, and others, the building was listed on the Utah State Register and nominated to the National Register by the Governor's Historic and Cultural Sites Review Committee. The National Park Service has just announced it is now a National Historic Place. Mr. Milton L. Weilenmann, state liaison officer, in making the announcement, added: "If the building is now razed, not only will a lovely tabernacle be lost, but a National Historic Site destroyed. This would come at a time when across the nation efforts are being made to preserve our heritage. It would be tragic if the L.D.S. Church, with such a great history, should destroy this beautiful building." He asks that church leaders reconsider their plans.

Special thanks to Stephanie Churchill, now acting director of the Utah Heritage Foundation, and Gary Forbush, preservation architect, and

*National Register Historic Place - Summit Stake Tabernacle, Coalville*



Save !!  
Bring it when you come.

UTAH

HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
NEWS



in T. Smith, Preservation Officer

Number 1 1971

## National News

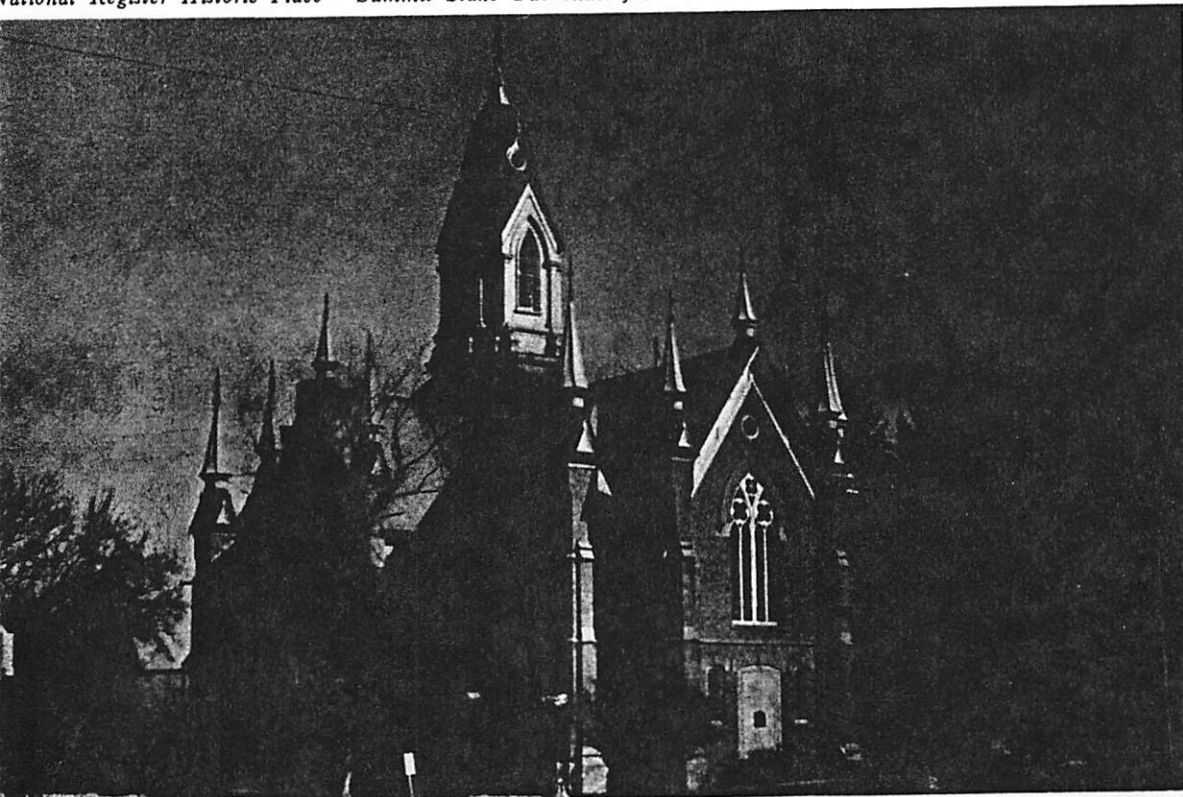
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National Register Historic Place - Summit Stake Tabernacle, Coalville





*National Register Historic Place - Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, Heber, City.*

hundreds of concerned, responsible Utahns who are seeking to save this site. If you are anxious to help, please contact Mrs. Churchill at 603 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102, Telephone 328-5755.

## A Time To Act

Several observations need to be made:

First of all, our heritage, as manifest in physical objects, is very important and on a selective basis should be saved.

Preservation only happens when we really care. It is expensive, yet it has its rewards, not the least of which are economic if restoration and

utilization are done with care and imagination. Utah has several fine examples of adaptive restoration.

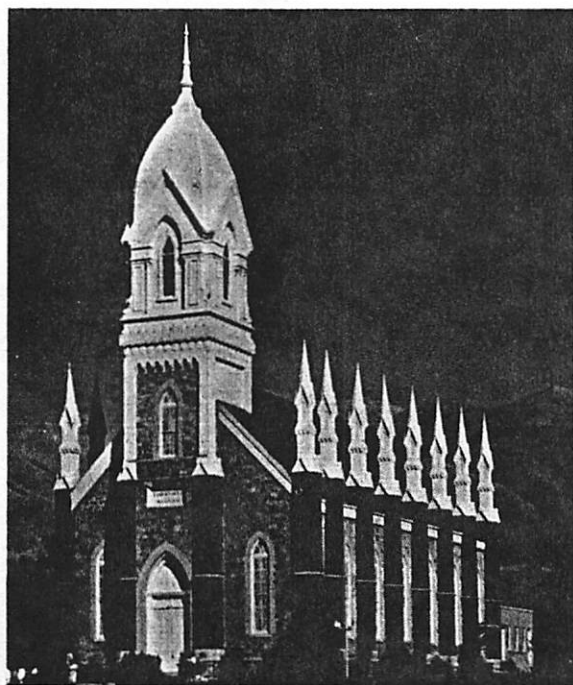
Preservation is not necessarily the antagonist of progress. While it is true that today's wants often are distinctive, they most frequently need not exclude buildings by forbears. Too often the past is destroyed because today's builders have not been told by us how important our past is. We, with our awareness and concern, make the difference. We need to look ahead, to plan ahead, to preserve before the eleventh hour. If we care about something, let it be known. Wishes are genesis to genius. Utah has architects with inspiration to rise to and beyond our aspirations. Action is needed now. Let's give them our challenge.

## Markers

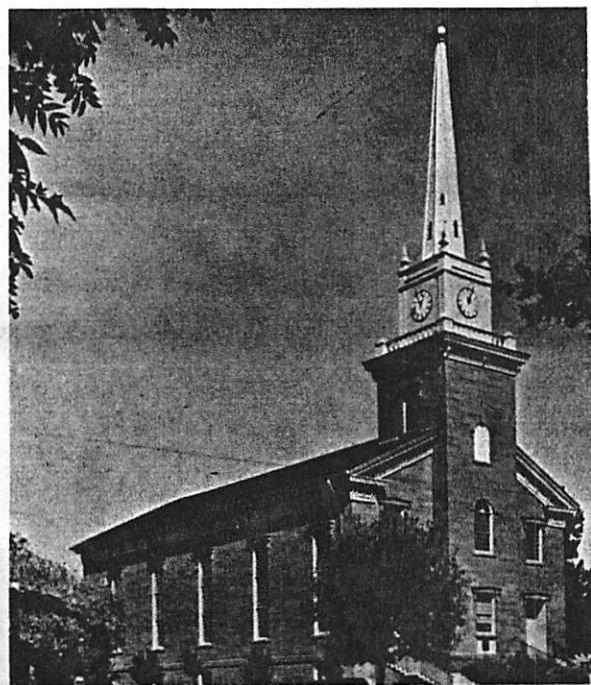
The marker, an anodized bronze-colored aluminum plaque mounted on a square three-inch post, is now ready for production. We hope to have one placed at each Utah Historic Site, both the State Register and the National Register. Because no budget has been allowed for this program, we are asking the proprietors of the sites or the people of the community or county to purchase them. The lovely plaque will cost only \$105.00.

Historic preservation begins and ends with research. Let's get the facts. Thanks to all of you for good work.

*National Register nominee - Box Elder Stake Tabernacle, Brigham City*



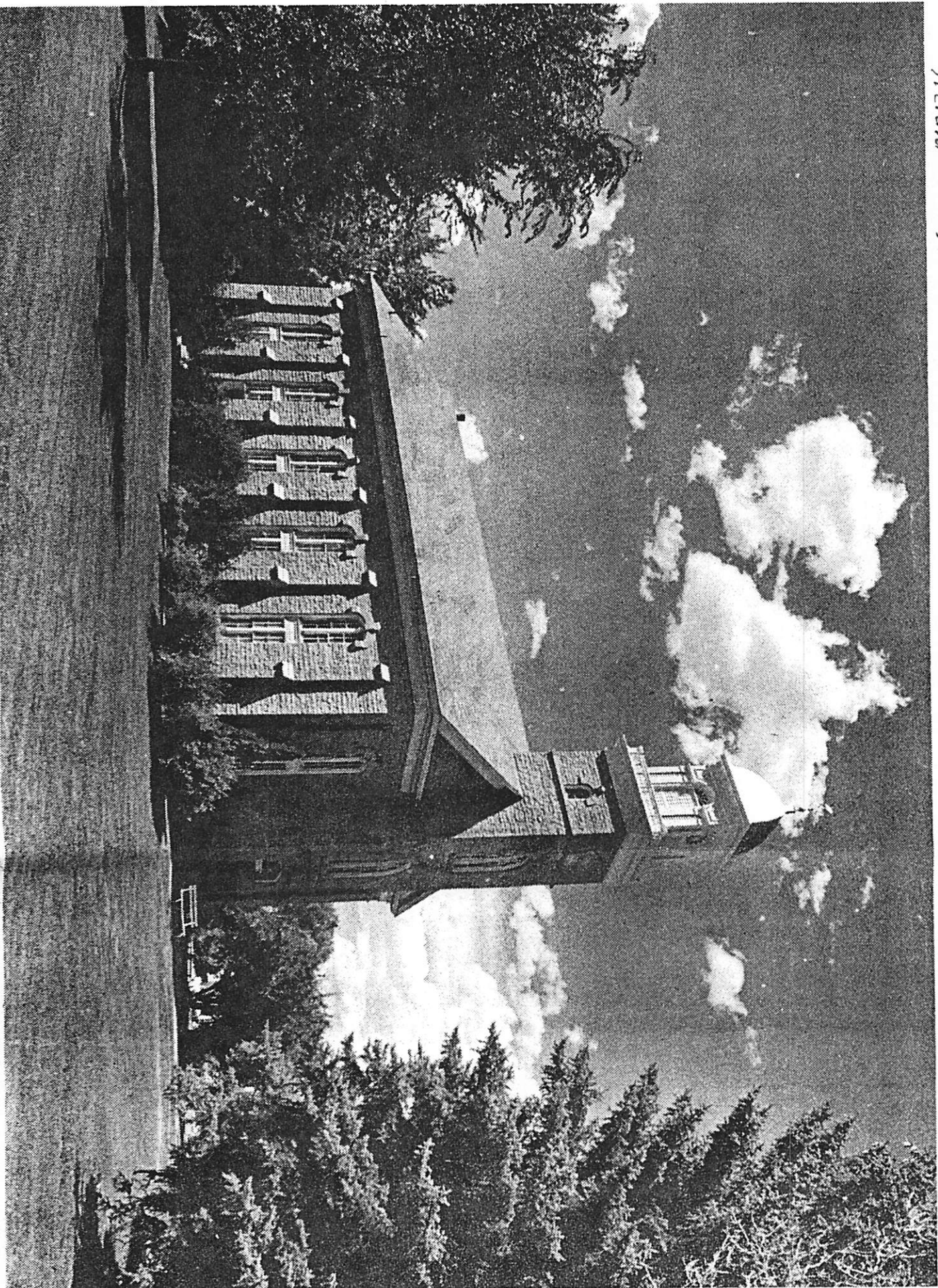
*National Register nominee - St. George Tabernacle*



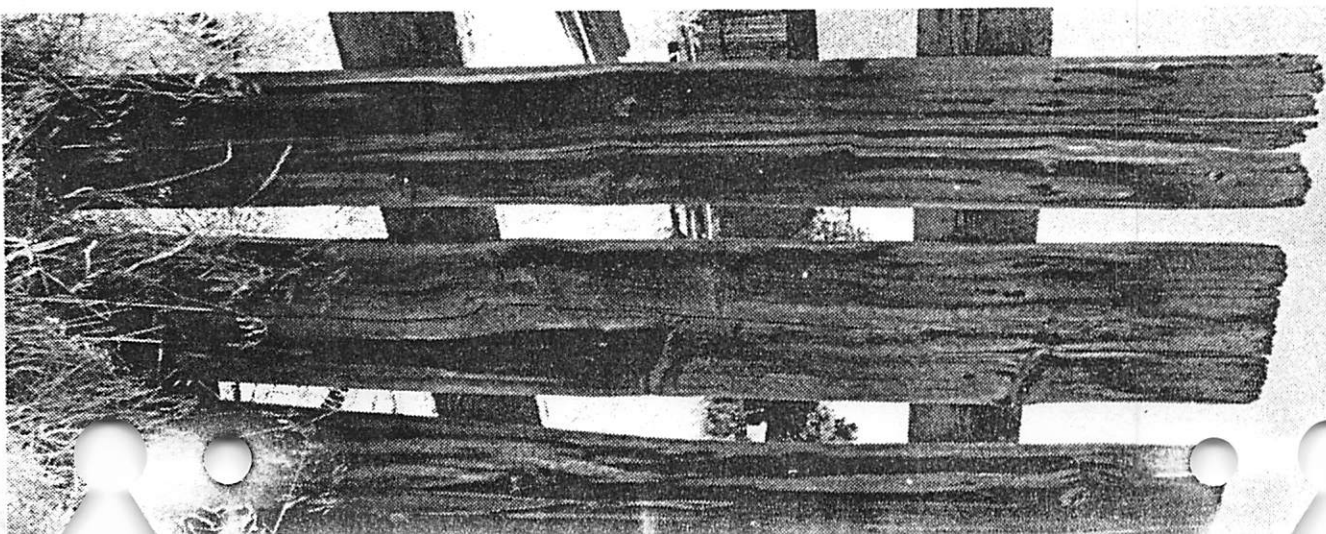


# Valleys of Wasatch County Have Pastoral Charm

*Herald 6 Aug 1972*



WILD OATS sway in the breeze near Charleston, locate the Southwest end of Heber Valley.



WEATHERED WOOD FENCE is an artistic reminder of days when practically everyone had a barn, cow and p

THE WASATCH WAVE

Thursday, Oct. 5, 1978 8 Heber City, Utah 84032

## Two buildings to be nominated to Register of Historic places

The Governor's Cultural Sites Committee approved two buildings in Heber, the David Fisher home and the Heber Second Ward meeting house, now the Catholic Church, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The committee approved the sites at their September meeting. The sites were originally presented in August, but the committee did not vote on them because there was not a quorum present at the meeting. Wesley Budd, the current owner of the David Fisher home, attended the August meeting and expressed his support of the nomination of his home. The nominations will now go to Washington, D.C. and it will take the national office about six months to review them. The nominations are rarely turned down if they have been approved by the state cultural sites committee.

The David Fisher home is at 124 East Fourth South. It was built in 1892 and is one of the few remaining Victorian homes in Heber City. David Fisher, the original owner of the house, came to Utah with his parents from Scotland. The family settled in Salt Lake at first, but then decided to move to the Heber Valley because there was agricultural land available. After taking out a homestead in this county David and his father returned to Salt Lake to

work for the Union Pacific. David's father was killed by a landslide.

Now the main support for his mother and brothers and sisters, Fisher returned to Heber Valley and worked for a local farmer, John McDonald. He married McDonald's daughter, Mary Ann, in 1874. The couple originally settled in Heber but later because of financial problems, they decided that David would go to work in the Ontario Mine and Mary Ann would stay and prove up on the family homestead in Daniel's Creek. Mary Ann then moved to Park City.

Fisher was very successful working for the mines. He also staked some of his own mining claims. In 1892, at about the time Park City went into a depression because of a drop in silver prices, Fisher returned to Heber City and built this house. With the interest from his mining claims, Fisher was able to live very comfortable. He was involved in civic activities and served on the city council from 1905 to 1913.

After Fisher's death in 1915, his wife Mary Ann continued to live in the house. The family sold it in 1936. Many residents will remember that it was used as a rest home for about eight years and the home was in very poor condition. Recently, the house has had a face lift. Wesley Budd, an architect from Salt Lake bought the home and is living in it

now. Mr. Budd has done many things to improve the outside appearance of the house. In addition he built a garage on the side of the house. He did a beautiful job tying the garage and the house together architecturally by building a passageway between the two buildings and adding scroll work along the top of it. The addition of the gingerbread effect ties in very well with the other Victorian elements of the house.

The other building that was accepted for nomination was the Heber Second Ward meeting house. It is one of the best examples of the Gothic Parish Style of architecture in the state of Utah.

The Heber Second Ward was created in 1903 when the Heber East and West wards were divided to create the First, Second and

Third wards. The Second ward boundaries were the west side of Main Street. A jog was made in the boundaries to include Joseph A. Rasband who lived on the east side of Main. Rasband became the first bishop of the ward.

The ward originally met in the old social hall. As the ward grew, the leaders decided to build a meeting house of their own. With the help of the stake presidency, the bishopric selected an architect from a church approved list. They chose Joseph Nelson of Provo. Nelson's other works include the city and county building in Provo, the Central School in Heber and numerous schools and residences. He designed a church for a Provo ward that is similar to the Heber Second Ward in the late 1910s.

In 1913 the ward